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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/878,908	06/19/1997	KARL-LUTZ LAUTERJUNG	09114/005001	8837

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TIMOTHY N TROP
TROP, PRUNER, HU & MILES, P.C.
8550 KATY FREEWAY
SUITE 128
HOUSTON, TX 77024

EXAMINER

PREBILIC, PAUL B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3738	

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	08/878,908	LAUTERJUNG, KARL-LUTZ	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Paul B. Prebilic	3738	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 32,33,36 and 65-81 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 32,33 and 36 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 65-79 and 81 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 80 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 81 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 81, lines 6-7, it is not clear how to interpret the language "neither said . . . locates past said second blood vessel" because the graft and ring are locatable inside the first blood vessel so it is unclear how they cannot be in contact with the first blood vessel when located therein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 70-74 and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding claims 70-74, on line 7 of claim 70, the language "and a part of said graft is positioned past a point of intersection of said first blood vessel" appears to positively claim the device in combination with the first blood vessel. For this reason, the examiner suggest changing "and a part" to ---such that a part-- and "is", of the cited portion, to ---can be--- in order to overcome this rejection. Claims 71-74 are dependent upon claim 70 so they have the same non-statutory language as claim 70.

Regarding claim 71, lines 1 and 2, claim 73, line 2 (two instances) and claim 81, line 3, the "is" appears to positively connect the device to the blood vessel as if the blood vessel is part of the invention. The Examiner suggests changing "is" to ---adapted to be--- in order to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 65, 66, and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by White et al (WO 95/08966). White anticipates the claim language (see Figures 6 and 7) where the radially overlapping bundle of wire (18) is viewed as defining the outer diameter of the annular element (17) of White.

Regarding claim 69, the second diameter as claimed is the base of the pleat in the graft; see Figure 6.

Claims 70-79 and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue (US 5,290,305). Inoue anticipates the claim language where the graft is capable of being used in a vessel where the C-shaped bends remain therein, and thus, the claim

language is considered fully met in this regard; see Figures 12, 13, 17C, 18C and 23.

The outer diameter of the ring is greater than the graft; see Figure 23.

Claim 67 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carpenter (US 5,643,314). Carpenter anticipates the claim language where the graft as claimed is the thin layer of material covering the cylinder (16) (see column 9, lines 52-59 and Figure 2), the ring of windings as claimed is any one of the radial bands of cylinder (16) which overlap radially in at least one part thereof, and the ring is resilient as claimed because it is self-expanding; see column 5, line 65 to column 6, line 18. The thin layer of Carpenter must be a graft because it is implantable, and it must be tubular and have free ends because it covers a cylinder that has free ends.

Claims 65-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dereume et al (US 5,639,278). Dereume anticipates the claim language where the annular element of ring as claimed is the tubular support (22), which is shown overlapping itself, and the graft as claimed is element (23) or (24) of Dereume.

Regarding claim 68, since the minimum bending diameter is a function of the bending diameter of a solid ring as compared to a ring of multiple wires, the Examiner asserts that the ring of Dereume inherently has the claimed minimum bending diameter because it is a multiple wire ring as claimed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 65 and 66 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 80 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 32, 33, and 36 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Applicant should specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure, including the claims (MPEP 714.02 and 2163.06). Due to the procedure outlined in MPEP 2163.06 for interpreting claims, it is noted that other art may be

applicable under 35 USC 102 of 35 USC 103(a) once the aforementioned issue(s) is/are addressed.

Applicant is respectfully requested to provide a list of all copending applications that set forth similar subject matter to the present claims. A copy of such copending claims is respectfully requested in response to this Office action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul B. Prebilic whose telephone number is (703) 308-2905. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-5:00 M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, McDermott Corrine can be reached on (703) 308-2111. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Paul Prebilic
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3738